

**NSC BRIEFING NOTES**

25X1

**SCELBA GOVERNMENT STEPS UP ANTI-COMMUNIST DRIVE**

- I. Scelba government now reviving anti-Communist campaign initiated when it came to power last March.**
- A. Pro-Communist press already largely on the defensive and moderate press campaign against the Communists gaining momentum for the first time in years.**

**II. Scelba, on 30 November, presented to cabinet analysis of Communist threat and proposals for combatting it:**

- A. Scelba sees Communists now concentrating on tactics designed to destroy public confidence in democratic institutions-hence government must defend these institutions without resorting to "exceptional law."**

- 1. If constitution violated, large sectors of the public otherwise friendly to government would be alienated.**

**Scelba proposes strict enforcement of existing laws - and new legislation where necessary.**

- 1. In particular, ministers must keep close eye on cooperatives that might furnish money to the Communists.**
- 2. They must also lessen their vulnerability to Communist attacks by eliminating corruption and "empire building" in their departments.**

**III. Scelba's new campaign accompanies recent rise in his government's prestige, which had been damaged by:**

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- A. Montani scandal;
- B. Factional dissension in Christian Democratic party;
- C. Quarrels among the four coalition parties;
- D. Whispering campaign suggesting that Scelba's coalition government was impotent and should be replaced by a Christian Democratic government headed by party secretary Fanfani.

**IV. Progress to date in anti-Communist drive includes:**

- A. Confiscation of 147 ex-Fascist properties held mainly by Communists.
  - 1. Of these, 132 accomplished by administrative action, 15 through the courts.
  - 2. Another 113 such actions scheduled to be completed by end of 1954.
- B. Ouster of virtually all Nazi Socialist, Communist, and Communist labor union offices from government buildings.
- C. Dismissal of an unstated number of Communists from the civil service.
- D. Official exposure of Communist corruption in administration of national agency for collection of consumption taxes (INGIC).
- E. Police charges on morality grounds pressed against Giuseppe Sotgia, Communist president of Rome Provincial Council.
- F. Censure of two Communist members by Chamber of Deputies

for their part in 19 October parliamentary disorders.

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- G. Denial of foreign trade licences to Communist-controlled firms profiting from iron curtain trade deals.**
  - H. Parliamentary approval of following social reforms:**
    - 1. Extension of rent controls;**
    - 2. Social security coverage extended to small farmers.**
  - I. Parliamentary consideration of following reforms:**
    - 1. Pay raise for government workers;**
    - 2. Prevention of tax evasion;**
    - 3. New contracts to improve status of agricultural workers.**
  - V. Further anti-Communist bills proposed by government supporters:**
    - A. Police action against Italians connected with radio broadcasts from abroad (e.g. Prague) which "insult" Italy; suspension of diplomatic relations with foreign countries involved.**
    - B. Declaring ineligible all candidates for parliament who have acquired a foreign nationality (e.g. Togliatti), been convicted for civil or criminal offenses, or been censured by parliament.**
    - C. Fines for propaganda offenses against democratic institutions.**
    - D. Stricter control of the press.**